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to the work for which everything up to this point has been preparatory, viz., *the Comparison of Roots*. Comparison is made of the words relating to (1) *fire* of which there are four distinct groups, (2) *shining* (five groups), (3) *cutting* or *separating* (ten groups), (4) *rubbing* and *bruising* (five groups), (5) *uniting*, (6) *stretching* or *extending* (four groups), (7) *bending* or *curving* (three groups), (8) *movement*, (9) *position*, (10) *shutting*, (11) *guarding against*, or *fearing*, (12) *binding*, (13) *crushing*, (14) *carving* or *graving*, (15) *piercing*, (16) *wetting* or *pouring out*, (17) *being cold*, (18) *thinking*, (19) *knowing*, (20) *being*, *existing*. The nouns meaning *horn*, *field* and *wine* are also compared. This hasty and very imperfect summary of the contents will indicate the character of the book. There is nothing "fanciful" in the investigation. It contains speculations of course, but only those which may be called legitimate. The method pursued is a strictly scientific one. The subject-matter is far from being "dry." There is a life and vivacity in the treatment throughout. It is a scholarly discussion of an important subject, and merits the attention of every student of language.

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#### OUTLINES OF HEBREW SYNTAX.\*

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It is claimed in the introduction to this volume, and the claim is a well-grounded one, that there is in existence no good manual of Hebrew Syntax. Ewald's large work, while valuable as a book of reference, has none of the qualities which would fit it to be a text-book. Of *Gesenius* Dr. Müller says: "Hitherto there has been in Germany but one book of a character at once scientific and practical, the Grammar of Gesenius, and not without good reason it has continued to be a standard work for three generations. Of course it could not in all points retain its original shape. But Roediger was so successful in remoulding it to meet the requirements of the times that it reached under his editorship, its twenty-first edition. Nor can it be said that the twenty-second edition, entirely re-cast and re-edited by Kautzsch, fails in any respect to bring the book in all its details up to date, on the contrary, the book is as useful as ever, and more correct than in any former edition. Practical reasons have, however, continued to prevail in this new edition to such an extent that the arrangement of the matter and grouping of details, as well as the whole grammatical system have been retained from the former editions. Thus the book still exhibits the old grammatical system of the beginning of the century, a system exploded by Ewald and others fifty years ago, and now almost forgotten by a new generation trained in the principles of comparative philology." This is a very sweeping statement, and is probably an over-statement of the case. It is true, however, that the arrangement of Gesenius' grammar is far from being perfect, and that in this particular the volume before us is superior. It is, without a doubt, more scientific than Gesenius. A text-book can be thoroughly tested only by class-room use. It may seem upon examination to be well adapted to the uses for which it was intended, while in actual practice it will fail.

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\**Outlines of Hebrew Syntax*; by Dr. August Müller, Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Halle. Translated and edited by James Robertson, M. A., D. D., Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Glasgow. Glasgow: James Maclehose & Sons, St. Vincent Street. 5¼x6., pp. 153. Price \$2.50. [Copies may be ordered through *The Hebrew Book Exchange*.]

All new text-books, however, must be criticised simply from examination, and a careful examination, has revealed among others, the following excellencies :

1. The book, in the matter of typography, would be hard to excel. The Hebrew type is clear and distinct, the paper is of an excellent quality, and the press-work is well done. This is spoken of because, in so many cases, these points seem to be regarded as of no consequence.

2. The divisions of the sections into sub-sections, and the arrangement of the matter so as favorably to strike the eye, seem to have received careful attention. Smaller type is used also to good advantage.

3. Many points, hastily and unsatisfactorily treated in other grammars, receive here a fuller handling; for example, the use of **ל** the sign of the definite object (pp. 22, 23); circumstantial sentences (pp. 101, 103); the cases in which the construct state is found before words which are not in the genitive (p. 53); conditional sentences (pp. 111-114). Yet on the other hand the treatment of Vāv Consecutive does not seem quite full enough.

4. The plan of the work is a reasonable one. It begins with the individual parts of speech, (1) *The Verb*, under which the author takes up (a) the use of the tenses and moods (agreeing in the main with Driver), and (b) verbal apposition and government, including under the latter a masterly treatment of the use of the prepositions; (2) *The Noun*, (a) by itself, (b) in apposition, (c) in the construct relation, (d) the adjective, (e) the pronoun, (f) the adverb, (g) the numeral. The Infinitives Absolute and Construct, and the Participle are treated in an appendix. Then the *Sentence* is taken up, (1) *in general*, and (2) *the particular kind of sentences*, under which come (a) Independent (Negative, Interrogative, Optative, Copulative and Circumstantial) Sentences, (b) Dependent (Relative, Subject and Object, and Adverbial) Sentences, (c) Conditional Sentences, (d) Secondary Sentences. This arrangement is far more clear and simple than that of Gesenius. The book has three indexes, (1) of Hebrew Expressions, (2) of Subjects, (3) of Scripture texts. It is without a doubt true that no better compendium of the subject has ever yet been printed. The student of Hebrew cannot go amiss in possessing himself of a copy. It will, of course, be widely used as a text-book.

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#### PORTA LINGUARUM ORIENTALIUM.\*

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Mr. H. Reuther, of Karlsruhe, is publishing a series of Oriental Grammars, six volumes of which have already appeared. These volumes lie before us : (1) *Grammatica Hebraica* by J. H. Petermann (M. 2.50); (2) *Grammatica Chaldaica* by the same (M. 4); (3) *Grammatica Samaritana* by the same (M. 4); (4) *Grammatica Arabica*, by the same (M. 4, 50); (5) *Grammatica Syriaca*, by Dr. E. Nestle (M. 5, 40); (6) *Grammatica Armenica*, by J. H. Petermann (M. 4). There will soon appear in addition to these (7) *Grammatica Persica*, by Dr. S. Landauer, (8) *Grammatica Hebraica*, by Dr. H. Strack, Professor in the University of Berlin, and (9) *Grammatica Aethiopica*. Several of these grammars have already passed through

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\*Porta Linguarum Orientalium, sive Elementa Linguarum Hebraicae etc., studiis academicis accommodata. Edidit J. H. Petermann, E. Nestle, S. Landauer, H. Strack, e. a. Published by H. Reuther, Karlsruhe, Germany. For price, see above.